

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

In the specification, please REPLACE the paragraphs as indicated below. The paragraphs are marked to indicate the changes made with deletions indicated by strikethroughs and additions indicated by underlining.

Please Amend the paragraph beginning at Page 4, Line 26 and ending at Page 5, Line 3, as indicated below.

~~An improved method for transitioning the ramp from the stowed to the deployed position is needed that would allow the ramp to slide freely to facilitate manual release and control when needed. Ideally, such a ramp would occupy a low profile, maintain a horizontal position upon deployment, have a simple mechanical release of the ramp from the motor, have a reversible motor, have a well-supported ramp flap, and be cost-effective to manufacture. The present invention overcomes the limitations of the prior art by providing each of these features.~~

Please Add the following paragraph before Page 5, Line 6.

An improved method for transitioning the ramp from the stowed to the deployed position is needed that would allow the ramp to slide freely to facilitate manual release and control when needed. Ideally, such a ramp would occupy a low profile, maintain a horizontal position upon deployment, have a simple mechanical release of the ramp from the motor, ha a reversible motor, have a well-supported ramp flap, and be cost-effective to manufacture.

Please Amend the paragraph at Page 5, Lines 6-13, as indicated below.

~~The present invention is a~~ A retractable ramp system is provided that includes a ramp platform, ramp carriage assembly for moving the ramp platform between the stowed and deployed positions, a reversible motor and drive shaft, a drive pulley mounted on the motor drive shaft, a drive belt in direct communication with the drive pulley and ramp carriage assembly, and a mechanical motor release assembly. The mechanical motor release assembly includes a release cable and a release actuator in communication with an end of the release cable. The release actuator engages and disengages the drive pulley from the motor.

Attorney Docket No. 016743-9002

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